

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
(SPECIAL SESSION)
JULY 9, 2009**

PRESENT: Commissioners Donald P. Berry, Sr. (Chairman), Amy R. Fowler and William D. Shorey. Also present were Sheriff Scott Story and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

Commissioner Berry opened the court session at 8:17 a.m.

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Present was Sheriff Scott Story who reported the following:

1. Deputy Damien Stone resigned effective July 25, 2009. He did not wish to be kept on the part-time roster.

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded accepting with regret the resignation of Deputy Damien Stone effective July 25, 2009, noting that he does not wish to be kept on the part-time roster. Unanimous.**

2. S. Story recommended hiring Kevin Littlefield as Full-time Patrol Deputy to fill that vacancy effective July 19, 2009, with a one-week overlap, at \$16.28 per hour.

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded approving the hire of Kevin Littlefield as Full-time Deputy effective July 19, 2009 at \$16.28 per hour. Unanimous.**

3. **CORRECTIONS SERVICE PROVIDER:**

S. Story submitted the proposals and the negotiating board's Evaluation Criteria and Bid Evaluations Summary to the County Commissioners. He read down through the evaluation sheet and explained reasons for the ratings given to the bidders, which included Spectrum Health Services, Inc., Volunteers of America Northern New England (VOA) and Maine Pretrial Services, Inc.

S. Story explained that VOA has reached out to resources and has already done homework to start partnerships in the event that they were chosen as the provider. He noted that Maine Pretrial had the best price. After an "apples to apples" comparison, Volunteers of America came in much higher, but S. Story felt it needed to be noted that VOA had included costs that the Correctional Center would have had to fund anyway. The end figure would have been close, once those things were considered. Regarding overall quality of their presentation, S. Story reported that Spectrum Health came in the best. Maine Pretrial also did well, and S. Story expressed a little disappointment with VOA's "paper presentation" of all the research and work they had done.

Spectrum totaled 67 points on the evaluation, Volunteers of America scored 69 points and Maine Pretrial scored 57. S. Story commented that all three could do this job, but the interview board felt that VOA could come in and "hit the ground running." That being said, S. Story encouraged the Commissioners to allow him to meet with VOA and try to trim their quote a little, as there were some things he felt could be negotiated on. S. Story reminded the Commissioners that he had been concerned about the transportation budget. VOA has a staff and program to transport inmates. He felt that this was well thought out and had been well planned. He asked the Commissioners to direct a

negotiating team including S. Story, Facilities consultant and Lars Olsen and one Commissioner, if they desired, to tell VOA they had selected them but allow them to negotiate.

W. Shorey asked how the negotiating would be in terms of money and savings and would it be \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00? S. Story responded that he did not know the answer to that at this point.

A. Fowler expressed that any savings would be worthwhile. S. Story said he thought that there were a number of items that could be “whittled down.” He was convinced that they would end up under budget on that line, however, he did not recommend cutting the over-all budget. He was not recommending sending anything leftover to the State. He felt that it would be wise, since this was a first year with this new re-entry system, that there be a “bumper.”

W. Shorey expressed his approval of the transportation piece of this quote. He felt that this was a very important component and was pleased that it had been planned for in the proposal. He had also been concerned that the original budget for transportation had been a little “light.”

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded that the Commissioners recommend that the Sheriff and negotiating team consisting of consultant, Lars Olsen of DOC and one Commissioner, if they desired, go back to VOA and enter negotiations for a final contract subject to final approval of the County Commissioners.** Discussion: W. Shorey asked if the BOC could put a stop to this in any way. S. Story said that the Commissioners are still in charge of this, but taking it back for a final review was a courtesy as well as to be sure that nothing had been forgotten. He wanted to make sure that the document and product would be right. **Unanimously approved.**

A. Fowler asked if this would be in place August 1st. S. Story responded that believed that this was the date it would likely begin, but explained that it might be instituted gradually over a few months in terms of bringing in inmates to full capacity. He added that all the bidders had felt that they could be fully running in approximately three months.

S. Story stated that he felt “kudos” were in order for the Facilities Manager and Facilities Technician and expressed appreciation for the hard work they had been doing in getting the correctional facility ready for the mission change. It had been recommended that the metal toilets be pulled out of each room and to install a central bathroom and central showers using the current medical room. At first S. Story was not in favor of that because the medical room was only recently created, but after re-thinking the appearance of the rooms, he was inclined to reconsider that suggestion.

A. Fowler thanked S. Story for commending the Facilities Manager and Technician and reminded the Sheriff that he and his staff had been very thrifty, had done the work for little to no cost, and told him he should “pat himself on the back.” There was brief discussion about the demolition work, the rugs that the Facilities Manager had been able to purchase at a very low price, etc. A. Fowler reported that she had visited the facility recently and agreed that major changes were occurring. S. Story acknowledged that everyone had been working hard on this. He invited the Commissioners to come up and visit and see the work being done at any time.

The Commissioners thanked S. Story for this report.

COMMISSIONERS BUSINESS:

Present with the Commissioners were County Clerk Barbara Arseneau and later Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth.

1. D. Rowley submitted a Strategic Work Plan for 2010 for the Chairman to sign and to be sent to FEMA.

2. JAIL MISSION CHANGE – COUNTY COST CONSIDERATION:

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to instruct the Chairman to view very carefully the expenditures for the Jail Mission Change and make the County whole.**

****A. F. moved, D. Berry seconded to amend the motion to read “to restore all funds that had been used for the Jail Mission Change.” Unanimous.**

Discussion: D. Berry agreed that nothing should be given free to the State of Maine. W. Shorey noted that the Jail is now a completely separate enterprise and should be treated as such. A. Fowler agreed that the expenses for the consultant, the demolition and renovation at that the Jail and any other expenses for this jail that had come out of County funds should be reimbursed to those accounts. The Commissioners stated that this needed to be rectified as soon as possible. W. Shorey explained that he wanted to be able to look the Budget Committee in the eye and say that any County funds used initially were then reimbursed. D. Berry said he would fight not to give away County money that they did not have to.

W. Shorey wondered if any of the funds that he had heard might be saved in the amount of \$200,000.00 to 300,000.00 could be used for a Sheriff’s building. A. Fowler felt that the funds had to remain with Corrections expenses. She reported that because the legislative wording wasn’t right, and wasn’t clear about use specifically for Jails, York County had hired an attorney and wanted to use that money and apply for loan payments for the Jail, etc. She reported that she had attended a meeting yesterday and the attorney stated that the wording was not clear. York County was still concerned that they would be penalized down the road. A. Fowler said she acknowledged that Waldo had recognized that it was not spelled out and had already made arrangements to place those unspent funds in reserves.

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded accepting the motion as amended. Unanimous.**

3. PRESS RELEASES: W. Shorey commended recent press releases drafted by the County Clerk and was now recommending that the County Clerk draft a release indicating the recent review of the auditor. W. Shorey thought it would be good to add that there were improved methods of accountability that are being implemented. A. Fowler noted that Kennebec County does their own press releases and even takes pictures. The Commissioners expressed disappointment that the local news has not gone to the correctional facility to look at the renovations. They commended again the Facilities Manager, and also the Corrections employees who have worked on their days off painting, etc. as well as inmates who have been willing to work on this project.

4. PERSONNEL POLICY WORKSHOP UPDATE: W. Shorey told the Commissioners that during the Personnel Policy workshops, several items needed to come before the Commissioners. He wondered if this could be discussed today, but Commissioner Fowler explained that she had to leave for another meeting. These would be brought up at the July 14, 2009 Commissioners Court Session.

5. HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIMS ISSUES UPDATE: W. Shorey wondered if it would work to have Health Insurance Administrator Malcolm Ulmer go directly to WCGH for discussions in order to try and resolve the claims invoicing issues the employees have been experiencing. W. Shorey thought it would be a simple fix and had recommended that M. Ulmer do this in a ten minute face-to-face meeting. M. Ulmer had preferred to respond to the County Clerk by email. The Commissioners would discuss this more with him during the July 14, 2009 Court Session and instructed the Clerk to set up the time.

6. SMOKING CESSATION DISCUSSION: There was brief discussion of a smoking cessation program to be discussed on July 14, 2009 with Vyvyenne Ritchie of Health Maine Communities. (Commissioner Fowler left to attend her meeting in Augusta.) There was brief discussion of whether or not smoking should be allowed on County property at all. The Commissioners felt it would be interesting to learn how WCGH had managed and implemented their smoking ban.

7. B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that Holly Anderson of VillageSoup news had requested an electronic version of the County's new logo in order to make some feature art for when VillageSoup news had a story on the County to post online. The Commissioners authorized this.

8. Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth reported that she had spoken with Khristina Landers at the Belfast Chamber of Commerce about donating items for the MCCA Convention being hosted by Waldo County in September. Ms. Landers has asked for a \$50.00 donation if the County obtained 250 copies to put in the gift bags.

9. K. Trussell submitted to the Commissioners the 2008 Annual Reports that had just arrived. The Commissioners were pleased with how they came out, especially with the new County Logo and the list of employees with the logo as a watermark in the background.

FUTURE COURT SESSIONS:

The next County Commissioners court session is scheduled on July 14, 2009.

****D. Berry moved, W. Shorey seconded adjourning the meeting at 9:20 a.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by *Barbara L. Arseneau*
Waldo County Clerk